

Remarks

A. Pending Claims

Claims 4091, 4093, 4095-4110, 4112-4123, 4125, 4126, 4128-4170, and 5396-5409 are pending. Claim 4091 has been amended. Claim 4092 has been cancelled.

B. The Claims Are Not Obvious Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 4091, 4093, 4095, 4097, and 4098-4106 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,680,633 to Bennett (hereinafter "Bennett") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,016,867 to Gregoli et al. (hereinafter "Gregoli"). Claims 4091 and 4096 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,089,372 to Terry (hereinafter "Terry") in view of Gregoli. Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

Item 5 of the Office Action states: "Claim 4092 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

Independent claim 4091 has been amended to include features of claim 4092. Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejection of claim 4091 and the claims dependent thereon.

C. Additional Comments

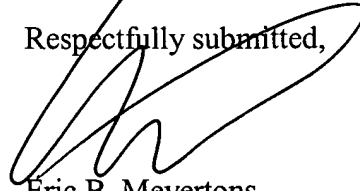
Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that no fees are due in association with the filing of this document. If an extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are required, please appropriately charge those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert

Inventors: de Rouffignac et al.
Appl. Ser. No.: 09/841,302
Atty. Dckt. No.: 5659-08200

& Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5659-08200/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric B. Meyertons
Reg. No. 34,876

Attorney for Applicant

MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, Texas 78767-0398
(512) 853-8800 (voice)
(512) 853-8801 (facsimile)

Date: Nov 22, 2004